

From “Controversy to Solutions” Series
What on Earth Are We Doing?:
How Today's Decisions on Land Use,
Water, & Energy Affect Our Future

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Public Comments

- ◆ We need to utilize modern nuclear technology.
- ◆ We need to do more sea water conversion.
- ◆ We should focus on renewable resources.
 - Solar panels
 - Reverse osmosis
- ◆ We now have open reservoirs –We lose a lot of water to evaporation, water becomes contaminated and then has to be treated. We need to use underground storage tanks.
- ◆ Government bodies should serve as an example to the rest of the city. We need to think ecologically, such as:
 - Low flow toilets in parks
 - Water grass in parks with grey water
 - Use recycled paper for brochures
- ◆ City needs to look to property owners to contribute to renewable energy generation for the city. The speaker volunteered his land.
- ◆ We need lots of trees in the city. They are important to the ecology.
- ◆ More solar panels need to be installed in downtown on rooftops. There is wasted space on the roofs that could be taking advantage of San Diego’s sunny days.
- ◆ Our groundwater is a joke. It is polluted and it affects everything.
- ◆ Automatic washing machines use a lot of water. If we wanted to really save water, we would use ringer washers.
- ◆ Rather than finding less expensive water, we should raise water prices and give households a quota for the water they use. If they use more than their allotted amount they have to pay more.
- ◆ To save energy, we should use cold water from our taps. We need to leave the handles on cold.
- ◆ Builders – larger percent of profit should go more into infrastructure.
- ◆ We could save 13,000-15,000 gallons of water per home just by using a simple water saving device that circulates water through our hot water heaters in our home. It provides instant hot water that saves energy. The device uses two side-by-side pipes that are insulated with wetsuit type of material.
- ◆ We need to have an integrated approach to organic waste including bio solids and green waste.
- ◆ We don’t have leadership or an integrated approach to watershed planning. SANDAG is going in that direction. Planning & Management is currently centralized. How do we manage decentralized water and energy?

- ◆ We need to develop conservation ethics within each person. We should begin teaching it in kindergarten. It is important when the children grow up and become voters.
- ◆ Natural preservation of agricultural land needs to be addressed. We should consider:
 - Environmental incentives program.
 - Drip system and tail water.
 - Fencing to keep livestock out of those areas.
 - Matching funds from federal government.
- ◆ City and San Diego County need an integrated approach to conservation issues including urban agriculture and storm water.
- ◆ Education is essential. Recycling and reuse of items need to become more of an everyday thing. We need positive incentives to conserve.
- ◆ We need a baseline price for water use. We should also find ways to take advantage of the changing technology.
- ◆ We could do more to make buildings energy efficient.
- ◆ San Diego has great weather with so much sunshine. We need to learn to deal with being on best place on earth to live.
- ◆ San Diego's pilot program for waste water is still held as an example worldwide.
- ◆ We need to put solar cells on new homes and retrofit old homes with solar.
- ◆ More land needs to be set aside for parks and open land.
- ◆ How do homeowners put solar panels on their roofs? Homeowners need more information about it. The City needs to send mailers to homeowners to give them information about solar.
- ◆ If we want to know how to plant more natural vegetation in our residential landscaping, we should go to City parks. They have beautiful examples of native plants.
- ◆ We need a decent transportation system.
- ◆ Water reclamation – Currently at the City's treatment plants not much water is being reclaimed. The cost of pipelines to reclaim water for industrial users is too expensive.